

MORE LIGHT

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If I had been standing where Brother Brown shot, he would have filled me full of holes. But I wasn't there. He makes the impression that he didn't know exactly where I was, so he proceeded to shell the woods. Now when Elder P. J. Brown unlimbers, it is a little like Mount Pelee. You are going to get hot stuff. If you are wise, you will not let him get your range. I was quietly scouting around fort Cassel, when first thing I know here's General Brown on my trail. Seems to me a man might possess himself of an inquiring mind without stirring up so many and such formidable adversaries. That's all I was doing, merely inquiring, when lo I am classed with infidels, and I know not what else.

I believe that the Bible is God's Word. But I don't believe that every man's *notion* of the Bible is God's Word. How do you like that? I don't believe that *any man's notion* of the Bible is God's Word. Put that in your pipe and smoke it. You see the trouble is just at that point. Whoever doesn't see as I see, or believe as I believe, is an infidel. That settles it. Turn him down, and if that doesn't mend the matter, turn him out. Old Galileo discovered that instead of the sun swinging around the earth, the earth swung around the sun. But that contradicted the literal Bible account, it contradicted Joshua, and so the people of that day who were jealous for the Word politely but firmly informed the famous astronomer that he would have to take it all back. He couldn't be allowed to "shatter" the Bible like that. It was back down or burn. Galileo consented to restore the "ancient order." It wasn't a matter to be martyred about, so he set the sun going around the earth again, just as it had always done, and there was peace. But now behold the apostasy of this degenerate age. All the world believes that Galileo was right, all but old parson Jackson of Richmond and even he took his mantle with him when he went off in the chariots of God. There is no longer any defender of Joshua's astronomy.

Now what have I done to merit a broadside from a whole park of theological artillery? I merely ventured to suggest that the literalists could not be perfectly certain that they understood either Genesis or Revelation, that the short time creationists and millennarians might be in error, and to show a strong probability for my contention I drew some analogies from nature, showing God's long time methods. I suggested the possibility that much of the language concerning both the beginning and the end of the world was tropical, or figurative, in which the real truth is concealed behind a verbal statement. Then arose Elder P. J. Brown, and let fly at me like a regiment of dragoons. Right in the midst of his head long charge he asks me to tell him where he is at. I am sure I don't know. I aint letting him

know where he is at. It isn't comfortable to have to run for your life this hot weather.

I am truly astonished when our highly esteemed and dearly beloved old veteran makes the statement that he never knew anybody but ignoramuses to believe that the world was created in six days of twenty four hours each. Your humble servant is much the younger, and he has known a plenty who so believed. I will undertake to find a church full of considerable intelligence who believe it now. I myself believed it once, and so for that matter did the whole Christian world until geological science opened a new book of Genesis, and proved the millions of years of the age of the planet. Then literalists took refuge in that phrase "in the beginning," as if the whole fabric of revealed truth rested upon the turn of a phrase, the twist of a sentence, or the accommodating elasticity of an indefinite word.

The God's truth rests upon quite a different basis. The creation story is figurative. Brother Brown asks, "If a day in Genesis doesn't mean 24 hours, what does it mean?" We have very good authority that it may mean a thousand years. And since eternity has neither limits nor subdivisions, it may just as well mean a million years, or ten millions. Science confirms this conclusion. It has been millions of years since the dense, gigantic flora of the carboniferous age laid down in the deepest coal measures. There are volumes of evidence showing not only the stupendous age of the planet, but also of vegetable and animal life on the planet. But curiously enough, geologists have found the geological order to correspond exactly with the order of creation as described in Genesis, and in this fact is more confirmation of the Bible account than all the shouting the literalists could do for a thousand years. Last in the Genesis order comes the creation of man. Likewise he comes last in the geological order. The animal creation dates far beyond his, the vegetable creation far beyond the animal.

These problems form an interesting study, but they are by no means vital to anybody's salvation. Any ignoramus can be saved, tho he believe with his whole soul that the



Brethren Church, Falls City, Nebraska.

earth is the center of the universe. He may believe in a literal millennium, or refuse to believe in it, yet if he be converted he will be saved. For salvation depends, not upon knowledge, but upon character. *Salvation is character*, not merely what a man can attain unto by Christian culture, but above all that which is created in him by the power of God, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the regenerative office of the Holy Ghost.

THE BRETHREN CHURCH, FALLS CITY, NEB.

The church at Falls City, Nebraska began its existence during the year 1867, when brethren from Carroll county, Illinois began locating here. For a number of years services were held in school houses and other buildings that could be procured.

During these years elders John Forney, S. C. Stump and Henry Meyers were resident elders assisted by several other ministers. The membership increased gradually so by 1880 it became necessary to have a larger building for place of worship than a country school house, consequently during the summer of 1880 a church building 40 by 60 was erected, four miles north of Falls City (the place known to many as Silver Creek). At this place we had large congregations for many years. When the church divided we paid the German Baptist for their half interest in the building and at once we remodeled the interior and since then has been a very commodious place of worship.

Gradually our membership in the city increased and in the year 1896 we rented a house in the city and during the year held services at Silver Creek each Lord's day in the morning and in the city in the evening. During the year our membership in the city increased and in the spring of 1897 the church concluded that it was necessary that we have a house of our own in the city. The necessary arrangements were made and during the summer of 1897 the Brethren church of Falls City was erected at a cost \$3300 including cost of ground on which erected. It is heated with furnace, plate glass windows, baptistry and other modern